Black-Marketing of Essential Commodities in F.P.S.

*400. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: SHRI DIGVJJAY SINGH ;

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that black marketing of essential commodities like kerosene oil etc.; is going on a very large scale through the Fair Price Shops in the country in both the urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme to check the malpractices; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) Functioning of Public Distribution System is a vast operation involving distribution of millions of tons of foodgrain, sugar, edible oil, kerosene throughout the country and as such a few shortcomings cannot be ruled out. Certain instances of black marketing in essential commodities like kerosene oil etc., have also come to the knowledge of the Government.

(b) and (c) Chacking of malpractices is a continuous process. Central and State Governments are continuing their efforts to check malpractices effectively. The Central Government has enacted Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to tackle such problems. The operational responsibility of proper distribution of PDS commodities as well as enforcement of EC Act and PB Act lie with the State Governments. The Central Government has delegated the powers to the States/UTs to issue control orders in order to maintain smooth supply of essential commodities. With these delegated powers, the State Governments have issued various control orders providing licensing of dealers, display of prices, fixation of stock limits etc. The State Governments have alto set up Vigilance Committees at the Fair Price Shop level, village level, district level as well as the State level ensuring representation from customers, women and Volunatary Organisations: The Union Government monitors enforcement operations of the State Govemments/UT Administrations and advises them from time to time to intensify action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and similar legislations to check malpractices/ black marketing of commodities meant for Public Distribution System.

Prices of edible oils

4237. SHRI SOM PAL: SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prices of edible oils have been showing an uptrend during recent months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a decision, has been taken by the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee to import edible oils during the current year to meet the shortage as has been reported in The Hindu' of 28th March, 1994;

(d) if so, what are the details and rationale thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that production of oilseeds in our country is going to touch a new record this year;

(f) if so, what are the crop-wise estimates thereof; and

(g) what is the estimated demand for edible oils in the country during the current year and what is the basis of assessing if ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUD-DIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Some uptrend in the prices of selected edible oils has been noticed during recent months. The month end wholesale prices of selected edible oils are given in the enclosed Statement I. (See below)